

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for remembering a last-played position of a recorded medium, said method comprising:

reading an identification number from a medium in a player;

determining a last-play position of said medium;

storing said identification number and last-play position in a player memory; and

rereading said identification number after re-insertion of said medium into said player, and resuming play at said last-play position when said identification number corresponds with said identification number previously stored in said player memory.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the medium comprises a compact disk and reading an identification number comprises:

determining a total number of recorded tracks and a total compact disk playing time from the table of contents stored on the compact disk; and

generating the identification number as a function of a total number of tracks and a total compact disk playing time.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the function comprises multiplying the total compact disk playing time by a preselected constant and adding the total number of recorded tracks on the disk.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the total playing time is expressed in minutes and the preselected constant is five.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the medium comprises a compact disk (CD) and the player comprises an automotive CD player equipped with a CD changer and a plurality of CD selection switches, the method further comprising:

reading said identification number only when a user activates a selection switch corresponding to a CD currently being played.

6. A method for remembering a last-played position of a compact disk (CD) upon removal of the CD from a CD player and subsequent reinsertion of the CD into the player, the method comprising:

detecting a CD in the player;

generating an identification number for the CD as a function of data on the CD;

comparing the generated identification number to previously generated identification numbers stored in a memory of the CD player;

whenever the generated identification number matches a previously generated identification number, retrieving a last-played disk position address associated with the matching number and beginning play of the CD at the last-played disk position address; and

whenever the generated identification number does not match any previously stored identification number, beginning play of the CD at its initial disk position address.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

monitoring a status of a selection switch of the CD player corresponding to the CD currently being played and setting a flag to a preselected state in the player whenever the corresponding switch is actuated;

monitoring for an ejection request for the CD currently being played and whenever the request is received, checking the flag and, whenever the flag is set to the preselected state, generating and storing a disk identification number along with a last-played disk position address prior to ejection of the CD.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of generating an identification number for the CD as a function of data on the CD comprises a mathematical function of a total number of CD tracks and a total CD playing time.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the mathematical function comprises multiplying the total CD playing time by a preselected constant and adding the total number of CD tracks.

10. In a system for playing recorded media, an arrangement for saving the last-played position of a recorded medium, the arrangement comprising:

a media player;

a central processing unit connected to a non-volatile memory unit;

the central processing unit obtaining an identification number from the recorded medium in said media player and storing said identification number in said non-volatile memory unit; and

the central processing unit further obtaining a last-played position from the recorded media in said media player and associating said position with said identification number stored in said non-volatile memory unit for later recollection upon reinsertion of the recorded media into said media player.

11. The arrangement of claim 10 wherein said identification number is generated as a function of data stored on the recorded media in said medium player.

12. The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the function of data is a mathematical function of a total number of tracks and the total playing time of the recorded media.

13. The arrangement of claim 10 wherein said mathematical function comprises a product of the total recorded playing time of the recorded media and a predetermined constant plus the total number of tracks on the recorded media.

14. The arrangement of claim 13 wherein the total recorded playing time is expressed in minutes and the predetermined constant is five.